

reflex actions, especially the protective or purposive kind, sensitization and a host of other biological reactions cannot as yet be explained on a strictly physical-chemical basis. Since the structure of protoplasm is not fully understood, it must be difficult to apply the laws of physics and chemistry for a better understanding of it. Of course, the authors of this book do not claim to have the key to the mysteries of the living cell, but they have certainly done their best in applying mathematics and the laws of physical chemistry to get the better understanding. Without a good grounding in these precision sciences the material in this book cannot be comprehended and therefore it will be of no interest to physicians in general.

For students of medical and biological sciences, however, a deeper though generally limited insight may be obtained into the following subjects considered in the book: cell surface activity, permeability, cellular and tissue respiration, respiratory enzymes, fermentation, contractility of skeletal muscle, intestinal absorption, urine formation, elaboration of digestive juices, and transfer mechanisms for ions, water, etc. The senior author and his four collaborators are well known specialists in the physico-chemical basis of living phenomena and have given the expert treatment to the subjects considered. This book should be thought provoking and stimulating to investigators of fundamentals in biology and medicine.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN FOR PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS. By George Clinton Andrews, A.B., M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Dermatology, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Chief of Clinic, Department of Dermatology, Vanderbilt Clinic; Chief of Dermatology Clinic, Roosevelt Hospital; Attending Dermatologist to Presbyterian Hospital and Roosevelt Hospital; Consulting Dermatologist and Syphilologist to Tarrytown Hospital, Grasslands Hospital, Valhalla, St. Johns Hospital, Yonkers, Greenwich Hospital and the Beekman-Downtown Hospital; Fellow of the American Medical Association, of the American College of Physicians, and the New York Academy of Medicine; Member of the American Dermatological Association, the American Radium Society, the New York Dermatological Society, New York Roentgen Society, and the Manhattan Dermatological Society; Member of the Deutsche Dermatologische Gesellschaft and Corresponding Member of the Société Française de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie. Third edition with 971 illustrations. Cloth. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1946.

The third addition of Dr. Andrews' text on Diseases of the Skin is most timely and welcome. It covers completely the common and rare forms of skin disorders as well as all venereal diseases except gonorrhea. Many new skin diseases have been added.

The chapters on superficial x-ray therapy and radium therapy are enlarged and brought up to date. The section on tropical skin diseases is concise, well written and important to all who see patients, who have contracted diseases in the South Pacific. The discussion of the various allergic dermatoses is comprehensive and well done and does not occur in other texts of dermatology. The chapter on fungus diseases has been entirely rewritten and modernized. Dermatological therapy has been completely revised and modernized. Excellent formulas are given for the treatment of all the various skin diseases.

Syphilis is covered well and the new methods of rapid treatment of early syphilis and the use of penicillin in syphilis is discussed. Chancroid, lymphopathia venereum, granuloma inguinale are concisely covered.

Another addition which makes this book more valuable is the inclusion of references at the end of each chapter.

The only criticism offered here is that Dr. Andrews has omitted from this edition the use of thallium acetate for epilation of children with tinea capitis due to micro-

sporon audouinii and the omission of curette and fulguration or cautery of superficial epitheliomas of the skin. Both of these methods are used frequently in many teaching university hospitals and certainly deserve a place in any book on skin diseases.

The great amount of information in the text, together with the excellent black and white photographic illustrations, bibliography and concise manner of presentation, makes this a most valuable book for students and practitioners of dermatology and syphilology. It is one of the best books on this subject to date.

NARCOTICS AND DRUG ADDICTION. By Erich Hesse, M.D. Cloth. Price, \$3.75. Pp. 219. New York: The Philosophical Library, 1946.

The author places addicting drugs in two groups, the narcotics, and the stimulants. The former are defined as being truly dangerous, the latter, as relatively harmless, but they are alike in producing a subjective feeling of well-being which makes it possible to "forget the troubles of the world for a while." Among the narcotics are opium, coca, mescaline, hemp, and kava-kava; among the stimulants are alcohol, tobacco, the purines, and betal. Each is considered briefly, from the standpoint of history, chemistry, pharmacology, and social significance.

The book is a strange mixture of dogma and science. The author feels that the use of any of these drugs is wicked, but that as mankind refuses to be entirely good, habituation must be accepted, and efforts directed toward replacing the use of narcotics with the reasonable use of the stimulants.

The book is a translation from the German, and appears to be literal to the point of ineptness, and to have been made by a non-medical person.

AUTOPSY DIAGNOSIS AND TECHNIQUE. By Otto Saphir, M.D., Pathologist, Michael Reese Hospital; Professor of Pathology, University of Illinois Medical School, Chicago. Foreword by Ludvig Hektoen, M.D. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Leather. Pp. 405, illustrated. New York, London: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper and Brothers, 1946.

This manual presents in detail a modified Rokitsansky method for the performance of post mortem examinations. The technique is clearly stated and well illustrated. For each step of the examination the text supplies adequate descriptions of the gross anatomic findings most commonly encountered and provides numerous tables of differential diagnosis based on these appearances. By limiting the presentation to that of a single method confusion is avoided, and the inexperienced or occasional prosector is assured of performing a complete examination if he intelligently follows the ample instructions.

The book is particularly valuable for those beginning or resuming the study of autopsy technique as medical students, interns, residents or practicing physicians performing an occasional examination. It is a guide and handbook. It is not intended as a textbook of pathology nor does it offer the special techniques employed by experts in the unusual case as, for instance, in certain medico-legal problems. The sole emphasis is upon gross morbid appearances with perhaps insufficient directions for the preservation of specimens for toxicologic, bacteriologic or serologic investigation.

This second edition is enlarged by sixty pages representing the addition of several new chapters (the Nose and its Accessory Sinuses, Autopsies on Stillborns and Infants, Anatomic Findings in Vitamin Deficiencies, and Notes on Certain Tropical Diseases); and by the expansion of several of the former sections notably those on accidental deaths and on the examination of the breast.